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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01509 110424Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 NSC-05 /020 W
----------076318 110429Z /13
P 110120Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3659

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1509

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, BP
SUBJECT: SOLOMONS AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

REF: STATE 226907

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATUM TEXT OF REMARKS BUGOTU WILL MAKE TO PRESIDENT DURING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS:
QUOTE: I AM GREATLY HONOURED TO BE ABLE TO MEET YOU TODAY. MY FIRST CONTACT WITH THIS GREAT COUNTRY WAS TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE. THIRTY SIX YEARS AGO IN 1942 I WAS A 5 YEAR OLD BOY ON GUADALCANAL ISLAND WHEN AMONG THE OTHER CHILDREN AND WOMEN-FOLK I HAD TO RUN INTO THE BUSHES FOR COVER, TERRIFIED AT THE STRANGE ANGRY BIRDS WITH SHINING BELLIES AND THUNDERING NOISES ALMOST TOUCHING THE TOPS OF OUR COCONUT TREES. THE SKY WAS TRANSFORMED FROM THE USUAL BLUE OF THE PACIFIC TO AN INFERNO OF STRANGE SHAPES AND TRAILS OF BLACK SMOKE AND FLAMES. IT WAS WAR AND ALSO MY INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE MY SMALL VILLAGE OF TADHIMBOKO.
IT IS HARD FOR ME THEREFORE TO BELIEVE THAT TODAY I COULD BE STANDING BEFORE THE PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES AND BE THUS HONOURNED BY MY COUNTRY IN APPOINTING ME AS THE FIRST AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE CONSIDERABLE RESPONSIBILITY THIS CARRIES, AND I SHALL DO MY UTMOST TO FULFIL SUCH DUTIES AS I AM CALLED TO DO, TO FURTHER THE ALREADY EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
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THE MOVE FROM COLONIAL RULE TO INDEPENDENCE MUST MEAN A NEW ROLE FOR THE SOLOMONS IN THE WORLD, AND IN THIS CONTEXT AS A PACIFIC NATION, WOULD WISH ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES TO BE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION.
MR. PRESIDENT SIR, I THANK YOU. UNQUOTE.

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2. IN TELECON WITH EMBOFF SEPT. 11, BUGOTU SAID THAT, CONTRARY TO HIS PREVIOUS INDICATION, HE COULD NOT ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON SEPT. 20. HE WILL BE PRESENTING CREDENTIALS AT UN THAT DAY AND MUST ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER TO AFFAIR THAT EVENING. HIS INCLINATION IS TO POSTPONE PRESENTATION UNTIL FUTURE TRIP SHOULD SEPT 21 AND 22 NOT BE FEASIBLE.

3. I BELIEVE A STRONG EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE BUGOTU'S SCHEDULE THIS VISIT. IF HE DOES NOT PRESENT CREDENTIALS THIS MONTH, CONSIDERABLE PERIOD MAY ELAPSE BEFORE HIS SCHEDULE CAN BE MESHED WITH PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE INVOLVING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY OTHER AMBASSADORS AS WELL. WE HAVE BROUGHT PRESSURE TO BEAR ON GSI TO NAME AMBASSADOR, AND HENCE BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE THIS EXERCISE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, TEXT, AMBASSADORS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Message ID: 649ae852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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TAGS: PDIP, BP, US
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